United Nations A/C.1/53/L.59

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
5 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 75

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.20/Rev.1

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 3 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.20/Rev.1 the General Assembly would:

(a) Express satisfaction that the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) entered into force on 30 July 1998, commend it to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date and call, in particular, on all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, that have not yet done so, to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

(b) Request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Amended Protocol II, to convene in 1999 the first annual conference on High Contracting Parties to the Protocol, in accordance with article 13 of the Amended Protocol II;

(c) Call upon the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of ratifications and acceptances of, and accessions to the Convention, and the Protocols, and decide to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 3 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.20/Rev.1 referring to the Secretary-General's depositary functions relate to programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001[1] and section 2B, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.[2]

3. According to the Final Declaration, a preparatory meeting for the first Annual Conference of the Parties is to be convened to elaborate and propose for the Annual Conference the draft rules of procedure of the Conference and agenda items. At this stage,

98-33971 (E) 051198

indicative estimates are not available, since a number of decisions on organizational arrangements have yet to be taken. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.20/Rev.1, the Secretary-General foresees additional requirements for conference servicing costs. No provision has been made under section 2B, Disarmament, nor under section 1B, General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services for such services.

4. In accordance with article 13 of the Amended Protocol II, and the Final Declaration of the Review Conference at which the Protocol was amended, the associated costs for the preparatory meeting would be met by the High Contracting Parties and the associated costs of the Conference would be met by the High Contracting Parties and any other States that under the rules of procedure are invited to attend and do so. These costs would be in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment, adjusted appropriately. Practice followed in the United Nations levies a charge, at a rate of 13 per cent of expenditures for such activities, to defray its administrative and other support costs incurred in their implementation. Accordingly, such an expense would be borne also by the High Contracting Parties and any other States that under the rules of procedure are invited to attend and do so.

5. The Committee's attention is drawn to the established practice that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may only be undertaken when sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received in advance, from, in this case, the High Contracting Parties and any other States that under the rules of procedure are invited to attend and do so.

6. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.20/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum* (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

[2] *Ibid., Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/52/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.